

(e) whether the Curator has requested the Government to take new hands from outside for examining the Malayalam-Tamil poem entitled *Ramacharitam*;

(f) whether the Government have sanctioned new hands for the purpose, and, if so, who they are and what their remuneration is; and

(g) whether there is anybody in that department who knows Malayalam and Tamil, and, if so, what his name is?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (a) The department was started in Chingam, 1084.

(b) The age of the present Curator is 62.

(c) Eight extensions of service have been granted to the present Curator.

(d) A statement forwarded by the Curator* is laid on the table.

(e) No new full-time hand was applied for by the Curator, but the part-time services of one outside his office possessing a sound knowledge of Tamil with a fairly good knowledge of Malayalam were recommended to be utilised.

(f) The answer is in the affirmative. The publication of *Ramacharitam* has been entrusted to the Tamil Pandit of His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum. It is proposed to pay him an honorarium, after the work is published.

(g) There is no one in the department who is a scholar in both Malayalam and Tamil.

Efficiency Audit.

40. MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the Efficiency Audit Office was created?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the work done by the Efficiency Audit Officer and the action taken by the Government thereon?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report or reports of that officer, if any, relating to the efficiency audit inspections which he conducted?

(4) Will the Government be pleased to state the cost incurred on account of the Efficiency Audit Department?

(5) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) why the Efficiency Audit Department was abolished;

(b) whether the Government propose to continue or supplement the work done by the Efficiency Audit Officer;

(c) whether any and what arrangements have been made by the Government for carrying on efficiency audit work; and

(d) whether the arrangements, if any, now in force for the purpose entail any and what expenditure?

* Vide Appendix II—page 156.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (1) The attention of the member is invited to paragraph 28 of the Dewan's opening address at the seventeenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly:

(2) & (3). The duties of the Efficiency Audit Officer were defined to consist in the inspection of offices with a view to the suggestion of methods for the speedy disposal of office work; the formulation of proposals for avoiding waste and securing greater efficiency; the preparation of compendious manuals dealing with office procedure and routine; the issue or revision of rules for the preservation or destruction of records in the several departments and offices; the bringing to the notice of the Government, of flagrant violations of rules and codes discovered in the course of inspection; the inspection of revenue offices with special reference to the progress of *puduvai* work under the Revised Rules; the inspection of the offices of the several major departments of the State with a view to the elaboration of concrete proposals for retrenchment of staff and revision of salaries for the consideration of the Salaries Committee, of which the Efficiency Audit Officer, Mr. M. Raja Raja Varma, was the President; and the detailed consideration of the report of the Devaswom Separation Committee.

Mr. Raja Raja Varma entered upon his duties as Efficiency Audit Officer on the 15th Meenam, 1096, and remained in that office till the 2nd Medam, 1097.

The work done by him may be divided under the four following heads:—

- (i) Work on committees.
- (ii) Inspection of offices.
- (iii) Submission of notes.
- (iv) Miscellaneous items, including work in connection with the preparation of manuals.

(i) Mr. Raja Raja Varma was President of the Salaries Committee and of the Nanjanad Vellala Committee. The report of the former was submitted to the Government on the 1st November, 1921, and that of the latter on the 3rd January, 1922. He participated in (a) the conference of the Dewan Peishkars for the consideration of the Report of the Devaswom Separation Committee and for the discussion of the questions relating to the consequent redistribution of revenue and magisterial jurisdictions; (b) the special conference held for discussing the recommendations of the Education Expenditure and Curricula Revision Committees; and (c) the conferences of the Dewan with the several heads of departments regarding revision of salaries in pursuance of the Salaries Committee's Report.

(ii) The inspections of offices were conducted primarily with a view to the requirements of the Salaries Committee, while in the revenue offices the progress of *puduvai* work was also specially scrutinised. Thirty-four separate offices were inspected, among which are included

thirteen Taluk Cutcherries, the General and Revenue Secretariat, the Government and the Central Prison Presses, the offices of the Chief Engineer and the Commissioner of Police, and typical district offices in the Revenue, Public Works, Forest, Excise and Judicial Departments.

(iii) & (iv) Two departmental enquiries were conducted by the Efficiency Audit Officer. The preparation of departmental manuals was undertaken and pushed through to various stages of progress. Rules regulating the destruction of records in respect of some departments were formulated and certain common forms were standardised.

It is not possible to enumerate at greater length all the suggestions that were made by the Efficiency Audit Officer or the action taken by the Government on each of them, as they lie scattered in as many as thirty-seven separate notes. These notes cannot be laid on the table.

(4) Rs. 17,000 nearly. This amount, however, includes the expenditure on account of the Nanjanad Vellala and the Salaries Committees also.

(5) (a) The office itself was only temporarily created and was abolished when it had finished the most urgent portion of its work.

(b) & (c) Such items of the officer's work as have to be pursued and completed are being attended to in the Secretariat.

(d) They do not at present entail additional expenditure.

Flavoured Toddy Arrack.

41. MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: (1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have introduced a new pattern of 'country liquor' known as 'flavoured toddy arrack' for sale in the State from the beginning of 1098? If so, what are the reasons that influenced the Government in doing so?

(2) Has this liquor been subjected to chemical examination before it was issued for sale?

(3) How many shops have been opened, or are proposed to be opened, for the sale of flavoured toddy arrack?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (1) The so-called 'flavoured toddy arrack' is only cocoanut toddy arrack which has been in use in the country and has been sold for many years. The only departure now made is to flavour it with a view to distinguish it from toddy arrack of illicit manufacture for which great facilities exist.

(2) The flavouring material is a harmless essence used in flavouring foreign liquor. A sample of the liquor was sent to the Chemical Examiner for analysis and he has certified that the liquor is fit for human consumption.

(3) Nine shops have been opened in Trivandrum and other towns.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: How many more shops are proposed to be opened during the year 1098?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: There are no definite proposals before the Government just now.